



# MONTEREY NEWS

January 2005  
VOLUME XXXV • Number 1



## The Town

As 2004 moved toward its conclusion and the season rolled into winter, the major town news in December was the Special Town Meeting, reported in a separate article that follows. Here are highlights, one might say, from the weekly Select Board meetings.

## Crane Accident

In early December a crane truck operated by Springfield Steel Erectors attempted to go up Mt. Hunger Road from Tyringham Road carrying modules for a new house to be set on Norwalk Acres. The crane was unable to make the turn off Mt. Hunger into Norwalk Acres and was also unable to turn around, leaving no option but to continue up on Mt. Hunger Road and try to make it to Route 23. While crossing a culvert, the truck slipped off the road and wound up stuck in a wetland. Eventually the driver was able to get the truck back onto the road by deploying the outriggers, jacking the truck, and placing blocks under the wheels, but there was considerable damage to the culvert and road. The Monterey Highway

Department has since repaired the road and installed a nice new bridge in place of the culvert. Springfield Steel Erectors is liable for all of the costs involved.

As a result of this accident, the Select Board has had several discussions with Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, and Building Commissioner Don Torrico about the procedures to be followed when contractors are using overweight vehicles such as cranes on public ways. The Board is requesting Torrico to add to the building permit process a requirement that the town be notified in advance of the set date of homes and the anticipated presence of overweight vehicles on public roads.

## Building Issues and Permits

The Select Board met several times with Building Commissioner Don Torrico to go over building department items. Torrico's request for a salary increase to \$30 per hour would require that \$16,500 be added to the already approved 2004-05 budget of \$7,200; a request for the additional money was put before the December 16th Special Town Meeting, where it was approved

after much discussion (see meeting report, p.3, Article 5).

The Board pointed out that the entire building permit requirements and process need to be fully explained and published in the *Monterey News*.

On December 13, the Select Board met with Torrico and David Hellman, an attorney representing clients who wish to purchase Blue Heron's Landing (formerly known as Leaside Lodge) on Route 57, a 22-unit apartment complex on a property with several nonconforming lots. The applicant is seeking a permit to repair several buildings and wanted confirmation that the properties are grandfathered. Torrico said that Hellman must show by deed or affidavit that the lots were in existence and the nonconforming uses established before 1974.

Also on December 13, the Select Board and the Planning Board held a public hearing to discuss the deletion from the Town Zoning Bylaws of the section dealing with building permits. The proposed change was presented to the December 16th Special Town Meeting (see p.4, Article 6), where it wound up being tabled. Torrico and several citizens



were also present at the hearing. The Planning Board made it clear that their decision agreement to have a public hearing was intended to facilitate discussion on the issue and did not mean they supported or opposed the change. Torrico and Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert said that the change was necessary because there are several differences between the bylaw and the State Building Code, and the State Code supersedes the bylaw. The citizens in attendance expressed concern that the Planning Board should have more time to review and rewrite the bylaw before presenting it to a Town Meeting, and also suggested that the May Annual Town Meeting was a more proper forum to consider such a change. There were also questions about whether ordinary repairs would require a building permit, the 100-sq-ft restriction, and how the Building Commissioner would interpret and enforce the requirements.

### False Alarms

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported to the Select Board about a number of false alarms triggered by home security alarm systems. They discussed the procedure to be followed in assigning fines for false alarms. The Board decided that effective immediately all permits for alarm systems will be issued by the Police Department. Chief Backhaus was also asked to write letters of warning to homeowners whose systems have issued false alarms.

— Will Marsh

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The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

## Special Town Meeting Report

On Thursday evening, December 16, 111 of 612 registered voters came to the Firehouse for a Special Town Meeting. There was a lot of discussion, especially on Articles 2 and 5, and the meeting ran on until almost 10:30. The following report is taken from the official report made by Town Clerk Barbara Swann. Exact wording of the individual Articles is included only when the content of the Article is not clear from the discussion.

### Article 1

The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$4,300.00 from Free Cash to the Town Counsel Account. Two of the three members of the Finance Committee not having been consulted, their objection to procedure was noted. After a vote to pass over this article failed by a vote of 46 to 31, the Select Board answered the concerns of the Finance Committee by explaining that the retirement of the previous Town Counsel necessitated negotiations with the new Town Counsel after the budget was set for this fiscal year. The amount represents the difference between the flat fee offered to the new Town Counsel and the amount budgeted for that function. The suggested additional amount was passed by hand count, 62 yes and 20 no.



### Article 2

The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$65,000 from Free Cash to a Cadastral Mapping Account at the request of the Assessors, who revealed that the State requires accuracy to within 10% of the boundaries and that the Town could get a better price now for aerial photography. Mr. Moriarty of the Finance Committee once again noted that his committee was not consulted, and suggested the Meeting might table this question to explore other options. He also questioned how much more funding might be necessary at a later date if this was approved, whether the sum represented only one program, and what the validity of this data might be compared to other methods. The Assessors were queried concerning the fact the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Mass Highway had received a grant for such aerial photography. In reply the Assessors noted there was a need for greater detail, especially around the lakes, than could be achieved through that approach. Accuracy would be achieved with 18 fixed land points and would be cross-referenced against deeds, in consultation with landowners, over a three-year period. After that a \$2,000 per annum sustaining fee would be needed. After a call for a vote, the article was passed by 64 yes to 34 no.

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### Article 3

"To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,000.00 or any other sum from Free Cash to the Tax Collector Computer Account for the purpose of performing a onetime upgrade to convert the software from a semiannual to a quarterly billing system."

A motion was proposed to increase the amount in the Tax Collector's Computer Account to a sum greater than the \$2,000.00 requested since the computer running the new quarterly-payments software was out of date. After assurances that the Select Board would be supplying a new computer from a different account, that proposal was withdrawn. A voice vote to approve the article in the amount of \$2,000.00 was passed unanimously.

### Article 4

After it was noted that future requests for firefighting equipment funding should only be made on an annual basis as far as possible, the requested \$8,000.00 for painting the truck for fighting forest fires acquired through military surplus and largely paid for with grant money was approved by 66 yes to 20 no.

### Article 5

"To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$16,553.00 or any other sum from Free Cash to the Building Inspector Account."

Discussion of this article began with a motion to reduce additional funds for



*Joyful voices were raised in the center of Monterey on December 18 when carolers, led by Karl Finger, gathered to celebrate the season. Afterward they were warmed in the General Store with holiday cheer courtesy of Kenn Basler.*

the Building Inspector's Account from \$16,553 to \$5,850 (to cover 15 hours a week to July 1, 2005). That amendment failed by a count of 27 yes and 51 no. The Select Board noted that a higher sum was needed because the backlog of serious problems in permitting requires the attention of the new Building Commissioner for many more hours. It was noted that we had buildings built without permits, within setbacks, and with understated costs to lower the cost of the permit to build. Now that we have a qualified Building Commissioner, the number of cases out of order has dropped, the complaints about fairness have stopped, and increases in fees have brought the amount collected in permitting fees to nearly

\$40,000 per annum (\$8,000 more than last year). We hope in future to help young couples by having the right to overlook the first \$100,000 in permit fees for hardship cases. The Select Board noted they have received letters from homeowners thanking the Building Commissioner for intervening when shoddy work was being done on their homes. These problems have either been avoided or the work has been reimbursed or redone by the contractor. The Building Commissioner and the Select Board noted that some of the additional funds can be used to pay a file clerk once the initial organization and filing is completed and the department is in order. It was noted that other towns pay approximately what this

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stitution thereof, insert the following: town is being asked to pay, and that in this instance another town pays for the training and benefits of our Building Commissioner since he works only in off hours from his full-time job in that town.

The article was passed by secret ballot, 52 yes to 50 no.

### Article 6

"To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws by deleting Section VIII.B. – Permits."

After noting that the Planning Board was insufficiently consulted about this article, although they knew of the need from last fall, a motion was made to table this article. The motion passed by a vote of 68 yes to 3 no, so the article was tabled.

### Article 7

"To see if the Town will vote to amend its bylaws by deleting Article II. Section 2 – Planning Board, and in substitution thereof, insert the following:

#### Section 2. Planning Board

2.1 Establishment. A Planning Board is hereby established in accordance with MGL Chapter 41 Section 81A.

2.2 The Planning Board shall consist of seven members.

2.3 Selection and Term. The Members shall be elected for a term of five years."

The Select Board noted that this article, while repeating the action of a previous acceptance by the Town of a seven-member Planning Board, was incorrectly presented previously. By deleting the entire article, and replacing it with the new article, we avoid confusion in the legal definition of the previous five-member Board and the proposed seven-member Board. The terms of office will still be staggered, with two additional members running in the May 2005 election for five- and four-year terms respectively. This article was approved unanimously.

### Article 8

"To see if the Town will vote to amend its bylaws Article X – Solid Waste Management, Section 2 – Penalty, by deleting the phrase 'a fine not to exceed \$25.00' and replacing it with the phrase 'a fine not to exceed \$100.00' and by

source of motive power and which is deleting Article XVII. Non-Criminal Disposition – Article X Penalty \$25.00, and in substitution thereof, insert 'Penalty \$100.00.'"

With no discussion, this article was passed unanimously.

### Article 9

"To see if the Town will vote to amend its bylaws by adding sections c), d) and e) to the a) and b) sections, already approved, of Article VIII. Regulation of Motor Boats, as follows:

#### Article VIII. Regulation of Motor Boats

##### Section 3. Boating Restrictions

a) No person shall operate a motor-powered boat in the new area of Lake Garfield situated westerly of the Tyringham Road.

b) Personal watercraft is defined as a small vessel which uses an inboard motor powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of motive power and which is designed to be operated by persons sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel. The term includes but is not limited to jet-ski, wet bike or surf-jet, so-called.

c) Personal watercraft shall be limited to a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour in Lake Garfield.

d) Personal watercraft shall be operated only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Lake Garfield.

##### e) Penalties:

First Offense: \$100.00

Second Offense: \$200.00

Third and subsequent offenses: \$300.00

Enforcement Officers: Police Officers, Harbor Master or other Law Officers."

### Article 10

The article has passed Town Meeting more than once, but has needed the input of the Department of Environmental Law Enforcement, which governs Great Ponds. Dean Amidon noted that the first two sections are already part of our Town bylaws. In addition, he offered an amendment for clarification, citing State Law for boating (page 60 of the Massachusetts Boaters Guide booklet) as follows: "Personal watercraft shall not operate, except for launching and at headway speed in that small portion of Lake Garfield which is west of the channel" because the distance from any shore in that area is consistently less than the 150 feet from a shore required by the State boating regulations. That amendment passed by majority voice vote.

A voice vote on this Article, as amended, was passed by a vote of 54 yes to 3 no.

### Article 10

"To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 184, Section 51 of the Acts of 2002, adjusting the eligibility requirements that seniors must meet in order to qualify for a property tax exemption under MGL Chapter 59 Section 5, Clause 41C (accepted by the Town in May, 1989). Provisions would go into effect in FY 2005. The adjustments lower the minimum age of eligibility to 65; the amount of exemption to \$1000.00; the amount of gross receipts allowable to \$20,000.00 single and \$30,000.00 if married; and allow exemption of the whole estate up to \$40,000.00 single and \$55,000.00 if married; with a whole estate exclusion of the

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value of a three-family home. Limits on receipts and exemption of whole estate for an applicant's co-owner who is not a spouse would not change."

After the provisions of this Chapter were reviewed and discussed, with a request that the Assessors make initial information and forms available to the public, this article passed unanimously by voice vote.



*The transportation arrives for the hayride, part of the festivities at the December 5th town Christmas party sponsored by the Monterey Park Commission and the Coffee Club.*

**Article 11**

"To see if the Town will vote to amend its bylaws by adding a new section, as follows:

**Article XVII – Protection of Public Ways from Logging Damage**

**Section 1. Logging Operation Permits.**

No person shall engage in logging operations without first obtaining a permit from the Director of Operations for Highways, Buildings and Town Property.

Before such permit is issued, the applicant shall provide details of the proposed operation and may be required to provide a cash bond which, in the opinion of the Director of Operations, is sufficient to cover any damage caused by the project.

**Section 2. Violations of Article.**

Any person violating the provisions of this bylaw shall, upon conviction

thereof, pay a fine of \$100.00 for the first offense and up to \$300.00 for subsequent offenses.

Enforcement Officer: Police Officers and/or Director of Operations for Highways, Buildings and Town Property.

And to amend Article XVII – Non – Criminal Disposition to add the Article's Penalties and Enforcement Officers."

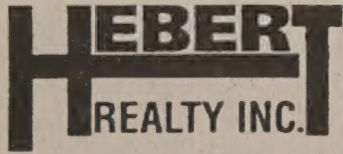
Discussion began on whether the Town ought to expand the proposed bylaw concerning permits and bonds for logging operations, to encompass any large-scale construction operation. No action was taken on widening the bylaw to include construction since it was noted that permits are normally secured for those operations. Mr. Tryon offered an

amendment, seconded, which would have specified the bylaw would apply only to "unpaved roads (gravel or dirt)" and would delete all other requirements excepting the permit process itself. A voice vote on that amendment failed. Further discussion queried the permit fee, and asked that a minimum fee of \$100.00 be imposed, but action to set the fee at \$100.00 failed on a voice vote. It was noted that the Select Board can work with the Director of Operations to set both the permit fee and procedures. The Director of Operations explained that this bylaw is a needed method of keeping track of logging operations in town and the damage they might cause to roads. After an amendment was passed to change wording on the penalty of \$300, to delete the words "up to," the article was then moved and was passed by majority voice vote.

**Article 12**

"To see if the Town will vote to always place the current Article XVII, Non-Criminal Disposition, without a number, as the last Article in the Town Bylaws, revising the Town Bylaws to reflect that change."

This article was explained as having mere "housekeeping" functions, since the article on Non-Criminal Disposition is an index of penalties and enforcement officers as imposed under Non-Criminal Disposition by the Town for those instances of failure to follow Town Bylaws, and properly belongs after all those articles. The article was passed unanimously.



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## Matzo Brei Cook-off to Benefit Bidwell House

Eat! Eat! Eat! At the First Annual Matzo Brei Cook-off. Enjoy a sumptuous champagne brunch for \$35 per person, with proceeds going to the Bidwell House Museum. Mark your calendars: Sunday, February 20, at noon, 45 Art School Road, Roberts Woods Farm, home of Marc and Katherine Roberts. Three expert chefs will compete in a matzo brei cook-off, to be judged by the attendees. Attendees are limited to the first 100 people to sign-up. Registration ends January 31; no tickets sold at door. Please make check payable to: Bidwell House Museum, P.O. Box 537, Monterey, MA 01245.

What's a matzo brei (MAHT-suh bri), you say? First, what's a matzo? In Hebrew, "matzo" means unleavened bread. About three thousand years ago, the Israelites fled Egypt in such lifesaving haste that their bread, made solely of flour and water, did not have time to rise. That's a matzo. The taste and texture is a cross between cardboard and cracker. Yet, it is still the only bread of the eight-day Pass-

## Wilson House Com. Public Meeting Date Changed

Please note that the Wilson/McLaughlin House Committee has changed the date for its first informational meeting. The meeting, originally scheduled for January 19, will be held at Town Hall on Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m.

The committee, appointed by the Select Board, has been looking into various

over holiday. With the essential assistance of other ingredients, matzo makes some luscious dishes – like Matzo Brei.

The basic ingredients for Matzo Brei are matzo and eggs. It's sort of a Jewish French Toast, cooked either like a pancake or scrambled. The ingredient variations are endless. The end results are usually either zesty or sweet—and topped with anything from syrup to salsa. If you Google "Matzo Brei" you'll find 699 web pages, including some surprises like Martha Stewart's recipe for Apple Cinnamon Matzo Brei—and a wonderful article in, would you believe, *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Join us at the First Annual Matzo Brei Cook-off. Eat. Eat. Eat.

— Hy Rosen

options for making good use of Edith Wilson's gift to the town. In her will, she bequeathed her house and land, with the stipulation that the house be maintained in good condition and used for municipal purposes. The town voted to accept this gift, and the committee has been talking with various town boards to gather information necessary to put together a solid proposal.

We are particularly interested in exploring ways that private donations could be used to repair and maintain the farmhouse at minimal expense to the town. Steps have been taken to form a nonprofit corporation (Friends of Wilson/McLaughlin House) for the purpose of handling grants and donations for the property.

The question still remains: what exactly will the house be used for? We have heard many ideas from the various boards we have met with, and there seems to be a general consensus that the town could benefit greatly from having some sort of community center available for a variety of social functions. We are currently looking in this direction, with needs of the elderly as well as youth being considered.

Please mark your calendar and come voice your ideas on Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

— Susan Sellew

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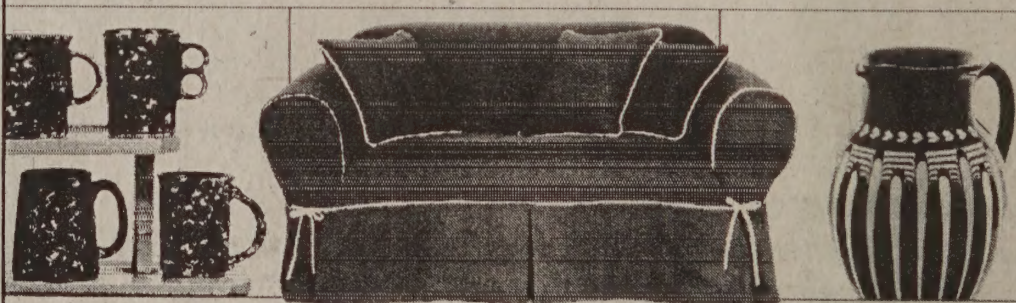
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# Scenic Mountain Act Officially Implemented

The Scenic Mountain Act was officially implemented in Monterey after having been filed in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds on November 10, 2004. The SMA was approved at the annual Town Meeting on May 3, 2003. The intervening time was devoted to writing the local regulations, drafting the map depicting areas of jurisdiction, and holding public hearings taking public input on the scope of the regulations.

The purpose of the Scenic Mountain Act is "to protect watershed resources and preserve the scenic qualities of the environment." The Conservation Commission was the board responsible for developing the regulations at the request of the Select Board.

The local regulations are in effect for all projects that are above the 1,500 ft (457.2 m) elevation or that affect slopes of 15% or more. Applicants proposing projects under the Scenic Mountain Act must file with the Conservation Commission. Before filing any applicant may come to a regular meeting of the Conservation Commission for an informal discussion of the project to better understand the filing requirements.

A copy of local regulations and the map are available at Monterey Town Hall, 413-528-1443. For further information, please contact Chris Blair, Conservation Commission Chairman, 413-528-4960.

## MONTEREY ICE SKATING PARTY!

*Monterey Ice Skating Rink  
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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 16TH \***  
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*\* Call 528-6611 on the morning of the 16th to make sure  
ice/snow conditions are cooperating*

### Thanks for Skating Rink Help

The Monterey Park Commission would like to thank all those who spent one Saturday morning in November getting the ice skating rink ready for cold weather. The Park Commission rents the pavilion from the Monterey Fire Department for the ice skating season, and also pays for the electric bill for the season.

The Park Commission is grateful to those who turn the pavilion into a rink and keep the ice in shape during the winter months. Thanks, as always, to Darryl Jassen and his brothers, who tirelessly make sure that the Monterey ice

skating rink is perfect. We couldn't have done it this year without them and the help of Shannon Mulvey, Josh Allentuck, Brian Puntin, and Rudi Bach.

Be sure to skate! Join us at the Ice Skating Party on Sunday January 16th!

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## Message from the Tax Collector

Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for the first half of fiscal year 2005 were mailed Monday, December 20, 2004, and payments are due Wednesday, January 19, 2005. Payments may be mailed to: Tax Collector, PO Box 241, Monterey, MA 01245 or dropped off at the Town Hall. Office hours for the Tax Collector are Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30—Phone 413-644-0299, x17.

Questions about assessment values and abatements should be directed to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey. Office hours for the Board of Assessors are Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 1:00 and Wednesdays 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. by appointment—phone 413-528-6481. Applications for abatements are due January 19, 2005.

—Mari Enoch, Tax Collector



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## Dr. Bhark to Speak Jan. 12 at Community Dinner

After the indulgences of the holidays, January is the time for New Year's resolutions, and there is no better time to focus on our health. On January 12 the Monterey Community Dinner will feature a talk by Dr. Philip Bhark titled "What is good for your heart is good for your brain." A Monterey resident and cardiologist, Dr. Bhark has enhanced his medical training from Columbia and Harvard with an interest in holistic medicine that encompasses acupuncture, nutrition, meditation, psychiatry, herbal medicine, and spirituality.

As with all community dinners, everyone is welcome to join us in the community room of the Monterey Meeting-house from 6 to 8 p.m. to share a meal, talk with your neighbors, and enjoy an interesting program. Please bring something to share for the potluck, a serving utensil, and a place setting for yourself. In case of bad weather, check the answering machine at the church (528-5850) for cancellations and postponements.

Also mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 9, when the program for the next dinner will be readings by Monterey writers. If you wish to read in this program, call Will Marsh, 528-4347.

## Idling: Bad for Your Car and That's Not All!

It's winter in New England and the car is cold. When an engine is cold, its parts are cold. This means that there are spaces between the metal parts and bearings, causing them to vibrate against each other. Over time, this can damage engine parts. A cold engine also results in incomplete fuel combustion, causing fuel to condense on cylinder walls, contaminating engine oil and clogging spark plugs.

Here's the bottom line on the best way to warm up your car. The five to ten seconds it takes to adjust your mirror and seat belt is adequate idle time. Drive slowly for a few miles. This method brings exhaust and catalytic converter temperatures up to operational levels more quickly. This allows the engine to operate efficiently, takes half the time of idling, and is less wear and tear.

Although this information may not address your desire to get into a warm car, it does dispel the "good for the car" warm-up myth. Idling contributes to global warming and air pollution. Reducing warm-up idling will keep our air clean, save money, and help your vehicle last longer. To find out more, contact Raya Ariella at CET, 413-445-4556, ext 17, or [raya@cetonline.org](mailto:raya@cetonline.org).



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## TOWN OF MONTEREY SKATING RINK HOURS / WINTER 2005

### MONDAY-FRIDAY

Dawn till 3 p.m.	Public Skating
3 to 5 p.m.	Kids/ Family Hockey Time
5 to 7:00 p.m.	Public Skating (may be closed for icemaking at this time also, skaters may be asked to leave the ice)
7 p.m. on, except Wednesday	Hockey Public Skating

### SATURDAY

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Southern Berkshire YMCA LESSONS until 2/9/05 Kids / Family Hockey Time (after 2/9/05)
noon to 3 p.m.	Public Skating
3 to 5 p.m.	Kids/Family Hockey
5 to 7 p.m.	CLOSED
7:00 to 9 p.m.	Saturday Night Public Skating Party

### SUNDAY

9 a.m. to noon	Pickup Hockey
noon to 3 p.m.	Public Skating
3 to 5 p.m.	Kids/Family Hockey
after 5 p.m.	CLOSED for major icemaking repair

Skating rink hours are dawn to 9 p.m.; if finishing a game after 9 p.m., please be considerate of your neighbors and keep it quiet.

Parks Commissioners: Leroy Thorpe, 528-2164; Jim Edelman, 528-0006;  
David Crane, 644-9151, Lynda Mulvey, 528-5698;  
Chandler Crawford, 528-6611  
Ice Maintenance: Darryl Jassen 528-1495; Rick Andrus 528-1723

## Public Notice Alarm System Permits

The Monterey Select Board announced on December 20 that effective immediately, all applications for Alarm System Permits are to be made to the Monterey Police Department.

## Sandisfield Historical Society News

On December 11, we sponsored the community Holiday Fair at Firehouse #2. Three community organizations and nine vendors from as far away as Pittsfield presented and sold their wares. There was a penny auction featuring fine gift items and many gift certificates donated by local merchants for both children and adults. Norton Fletcher sold raffle tickets for the two-story fully furnished dollhouse and the meetinghouse replica birdhouse. The Corzier family from Manhattan won the dollhouse, and Roberta Myers won the birdhouse. Mountain Song Farm also hosted the kids' activities corner for the second year in a row.

Our next meeting is a potluck lunch, 11 a.m., Saturday, January 8, at the South Sandisfield meetinghouse. Everyone is invited. Call 258-4786 for directions.

— Josephine Freedman

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## A Moment In Rhyme: Night Sky Conversation

Once  
suspended in a smile, I caught heaven  
on a moment's hem . . .

It was here, I met love, raw and revealing  
there's no place to hide, as I stumble through feeling

it seems I was sleeping, or silently waiting  
to take this deep breath and rise, gravitating

'round stars that are falling, when the world is so wide  
hope begins leaping and planets collide

sometimes I forget, where life was going  
that pause between fate, before I was knowing

that love demands all, it is far from serene  
it breaks and it dances and dismantles routine

life is more about changing, and learning to see  
together we're stronger and closer to free

Once  
suspended in a smile, I caught heaven  
on a moment's hem...

Here, we met love, and mortals broke loose,  
wheeling into glitters of God.

— M. Hamilton

## A Song for Saul

*Lo, His word shall come unto thee  
in the beauty of holiness  
in psalm, in prayer  
in newness of life*

*O, Saul, rest away from Israel  
let David sing thee peace*

*Lo, His word shall come unto thee  
in the quiet of evening  
in moon, in star  
in firmament of sleep*

*O, Saul, rest away from Israel  
let David sing thee peace*

*Remember, thou son of Kish,  
the holy oil at thy anointing  
the company of prophets  
the tabret, pipe, and harp before thee!*

*Lo, His strength shall come unto thee  
in the fresh of the morning  
in light, in joy  
with wings that will uplift thee*

*O, Saul, rest away from Israel  
let David sing thee peace.*

— A. O. Howell

## Out the Old Gate, toward the New

*Bro Nello and Baby Rolo were on the stroll again, leafless, through the old gate of the garden and wondering at the deepening shadow descending over all the immediate inhabitants, both sentient and non sentient. The avenues were becoming hard and cold; the streets becoming darker by the day; and only the demons of the underworld seemed to be gaining in stature, as evidenced by the most recent elections, proclamations, and liberation abominaitons.*

*Bro Nello, in his tall humor, who usually spoke of the flowers of imagination, and Baby Rolo, wide eyed and wild haired, who usually leaned on the eastern edge of things, their own hands descending deeper into their pockets, strolled on in silence, both leafless and wondering, downtown toward Bond Street . . . whereupon they spied old Burt Gundy, leaning on his hoe.*

*Now, old Burt could see them coming from far far away and he knew what weighed heavy on their hearts and what questions might be asked and without waiting for words to be wasted wantonly upon the sidewalks, he turned quickly and pulled a rutabaga from the rich ground of the garden that he carried with him everywhere he went . . . and he pointed with that rutabaga toward the west, whispering . . . "introspection" . . . and he pointed north, whispering . . . "meditation" . . . and then he pointed east, whispering . . . "realization" . . . and then he pointed south, whispering . . . "manifestation" . . . and then upwards toward the stars saying "thank you" and then he pointed with that rutabaga toward the stage of dreams, where the young muse, Boney Oscar, appearing miracalized and fully adorned gave forth thusly:*

### a mad mark

*first snow, all day, big flakes falling  
and you, falling along my mind  
these "same few flurries" that keep us  
connected, bound to the mystery  
as beautiful, as cruel, as reasonless  
as pen ready, to make a mad mark  
dash down, fling, to make stick some  
and some won't, persisting until  
every branch, each limb perceived  
is traced and rhymed in living lines:  
precipitate of pregnancy  
of sky of mind of musing stars:  
and every landscape cruel, stupid  
or beautiful is covered true*

*empires will rise and then they'll fall  
as clouds fill up and turn to snow  
those "same few flurries," steady, sure  
falling along the pines  
and us*

— R. Zukowski

## White for Winter: The Ermine

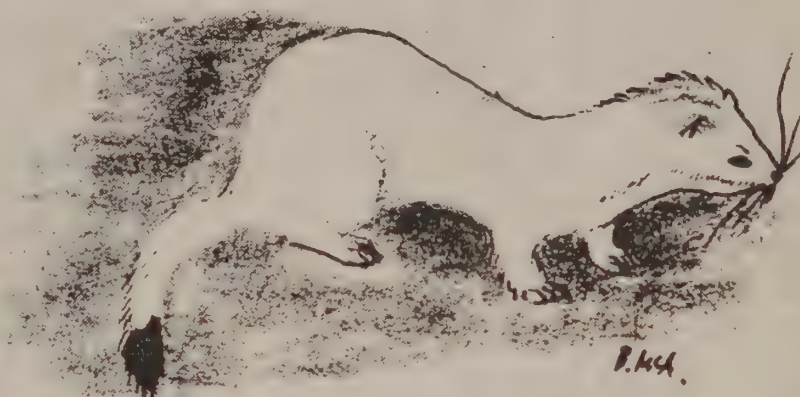
A snowy landscape turns so many things around. Just when we have our shortest days and darkest times, we wake up one day to find the brightest light of the whole year coming at us from the ground. Where summer's dark and shady places used to be, in the deep woods, we find a powerful electric-light blanket, giving us back the winter sun many times over. A full moon in winter casts shadows on a snowy road that are stronger than the trees themselves, in terms of contrast. I love winter, but not because it feels normal to me. I could not take it all the time, but not because of the cold—it's because it is a bit spooky with all its turnaround.

Some folks and many birds and insects take off for summery places in the winter. Others of us stay put and make a few adjustments: more insulation, less running around, more sleeping, less procreation. Some creatures are programmed to change color in the winter: the male goldfinches are not so gold. My mother used to call them leadfinches. I've noticed that our gray squirrels get white behind the ears in winter, as if they'd dug out their fluffy earmuffs. The real turnarounds in the

animal world, though, are the ones that turn white.

In these latitudes we have snowshoe hares and weasels that go from brown to white and back again, more or less as the snow cover comes and goes. Changeover time varies from place to place, but I know the weasels are white by now because my friend found one in her barn. If it had been out in the field, she probably never would have seen it.

We have three kinds of weasels in these parts and all of them turn white in winter. The short-tailed weasel is also



called an ermine. It is about eight inches long (head and body) with a three-inch tail. From April to late October or so its upper parts are dark brown and its belly and feet are white with a thin white line down the hind leg connecting the white belly to the white toes. The tip of the tail is black.

The color change in late fall is caused by a hormonal shift, which is triggered by

the shorter days. At first the dark upper parts get blotchy with white, and finally all the brown is gone, replaced by white. Only the black tail tip remains. The long-tailed weasel is about twice the size of the short-tailed species (the Ermine) and has the same pattern of color change, including the black tail tip. Only the third, smallest, species turns completely white, with no black at all.

A little study and speculation, including building fake Styrofoam weasels and training a hawk to stoop for them, revealed the logic behind the black tail tip. Like so many things in nature, it is a matter of life and death.

Nothing, not even an ermine dressed in its new white coat, is as white as snow. It is a bit creamy and might be seen against the snow by a sharp-eyed raptor. But put a black tip on the skinny end, far from the vital organs and head, and you get a kind of decoy. The

hawk will aim for that moving bit of black but as the talons close, the tail is too slim and slips away. The weasel has plenty of time to vanish before the hawk can get airborne and organize another attack.

Least weasels, being only six inches long, are a different matter. If a hawk dove for the black tip, one of its deadly feet might very well hit the body. So the

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least weasel is not set up to try that trick and banks instead on its slightly off-white coloring.

I don't know if kids draw pictures of kings and queens any more, but fifty years ago we all knew that these royals had to be topped with gold and draped in ermine. You needed the yellow crayon, the white one, and the black one for the tail tips. I read that in 1937 fifty thousand ermine pelts were used in the coronation of King George VI.

If you don't get to a coronation, if you never see a black tail tip scooting across the snow, maybe you will get to see the paired tracks of a weasel. They have five toes on their feet, but you don't always see all five in the track. Look for two little feet side by side, and as you follow the trail, see if the author was looking under things, diving into mouse tunnels, and constantly on the go. Weasels are bright, bold, inquisitive, unafraid of creatures much bigger than themselves.

Here is an account from 1894: Mr. T. McIlwraith, in *Birds of Ontario*, tells of a bald eagle that was shot. It had a weasel skull, old and bleached, hanging from its neck. Although the eagle had managed to catch the weasel, the weasel had fought

## Jan 29 Workshop on Conservation Restrictions

On Saturday, January 29th, the Highland Communities Initiative is offering a workshop in Monterey on the fundamentals of conservation restrictions. Conservation restrictions (CRs) are a fundamental tool for land conservation, but without regular attention and maintenance their long-term effectiveness is limited. This workshop was designed for land trusts and conservation commissions with few or no staff who want to create an efficient system for managing CRs. Judy Anderson of the Columbia Land Conservancy will examine the implications of CR language on baseline documentation reports and long-term monitoring needs and discuss the use of volunteers for CR stewardship. Participants will analyze and discuss actual CR documents to better understand what action needs to be taken on a regular basis to protect the integrity of the conservation restriction. Join us for a potluck lunch following the workshop.

back and never let go. I like this turnaround story because it is spooky, like the woods floor of winter that is brighter than the sun that lights it up.

— Bonner J. McAllester

The workshop will be held in Monterey from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and is \$15 per person. To register, send your name, address, and a check for \$15 payable to The Trustees of Reservations to The Trustees of Reservations - PCI/HCI, 464 Abbott Ave., Leominster, MA 01453. For more information call 413-268-8219 or email [wssweetser@ttor.org](mailto:wssweetser@ttor.org) or [highlands@ttor.org](mailto:highlands@ttor.org).

The Highland Communities Initiative (HCI) is a grant-funded program to promote land conservation and community preservation in western Massachusetts. Underwritten by the Wyomissing Foundation and administered by The Trustees of Reservations, HCI encourages conservation of the natural and cultural landscapes of the "Highlands" region: 38 towns lying between the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers, and the Vermont and Connecticut borders.

HCI grew out of the concerns of several Highlands region residents who recognized the importance and difficulty of maintaining the quality of life and rural character of their communities in the face of rising development pressures. In response, they conceived of the Initiative to provide municipal boards, land trusts, community leaders, and others concerned about the future of the Highlands landscape with the information and tools they need to be effective advocates for conservation and community preservation.

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## New Year's Resolutions for the Conscientious Eater

This year, instead of writing my usual New Year's resolutions—lose 20 pounds, floss after every meal, walk 3 miles each day—that I observe for sometimes as long as 24 hours, I composed a different sort of list, one that I hope a lot of my friends and neighbors will adopt because we'll all benefit from the results.

1. In 2005 I resolve to use less gas. I'll continue to drive because that is the only way I can live in Monterey. But by eating more locally grown products, I will use less gas. The ingredients of an average meal bought at a supermarket could have traveled, cumulatively, over 24,000 miles. In contrast, if I choose to eat seasonally and locally, the food at my average meal will have traveled a total of about 375 miles. That's one way to conserve gas.

2. In 2005 I resolve to consume fewer calories by eating more locally grown products that have been raised sustainably. Beef from factory farms costs 35 calories of fossil fuel for every calorie of that beef, and pork is even worse—it takes 68 calories of energy to produce one calorie of pork. It's not just meat that consumes a lot of calories; the American food-producing industry uses about 10 calories of fossil fuel for every calorie of food energy it produces. By eating locally produced meat, I'll cut down on misspent calories.

3. In 2005 I resolve to put a face on my food, to make sure I know where my food comes from. Instead of buying an international brand of apple juice whose label might tell me that the juice is made of concentrate from Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Argentina, Chile, Turkey, Brazil, China, and the United States, I plan to buy apple juice and cider made by Windy Hill or Taft Farm or Bartlett's or any of the other local and regional fruit growers who are using fruit from their own orchards, which I can visit. As the ecological economist Herman Daly noted, "Americans import Danish sugar cookies, and Danes import American sugar cookies. Exchanging recipes would surely be more efficient."

4. In 2005 I resolve to help local farmers earn more money. I do not want to be part of a food system that pays the farmer 6 cents for the wheat in the loaf of bread I buy, which is the same cost as the wrapping on that bread. Our local farmers deserve more than the 9 cents of every dollar we spend on food. I would rather see my food dollars pay our local farmers a reasonable living than seeing so many of my food dollars go to the federal government for research on chemical pesticides and fertilizers, on subsidies for the transportation of factory-farmed food, in support of agricultural practices that damage human health and destroy rural communities, and in support of the monoculture that is destroying our environment.

5. In 2005 I resolve to eat the best-tasting food. There is a profoundly simple reason that the "buy local" renaissance of

the last 15 years was begun by serious chefs. Local produce tastes better. It's as simple as that. But of course local tastes better. As A. J. Liebling declared in his biography of the colorful demagogue Earl Long, "Southern politicians, like sweet corn, travel badly." The sweet corn or garlic or spinach that's taken a week to travel from California or Florida to our tables cannot possibly compare in freshness, quality or taste to the sweet corn and garlic and spinach that's grown here in the Berkshires and eaten within a day or two of picking. So I'll be buying as much produce as possible from our local farmers markets and farmstands.

6. In 2005 I resolve to join a CSA. Even though "community supported agriculture" is a pretty clumsy way to describe this vitally important movement, CSAs provide their members the luxury of the freshest homegrown food without the sweat and toil of farm work. And the members provide the CSA owners with a built-in market, up-front money for crops and equipment at the beginning of the season, and the financial compensation worthy of these diligent stewards of our land.

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7. In 2005 I resolve to stop using so many drugs. By eating only pasture-raised meat and free-range poultry, I won't make much of a dent in the 24 million pounds of antibiotics fed to factory-farmed animals each year, but I am not going to violate my own antibiotic resistance by eating factory-farmed grown beef, pork, or chicken.

8. In 2005 I resolve to replace convenience with sustainability. This is a complicated and threatening position, particularly since we're all addicted to convenience. This convenience addiction means that everyone in the U.S. throws away 4 pounds of trash every day, which adds up to about a ton of waste materials per person each year. In total, the average American will have thrown



Glynnis Oliver

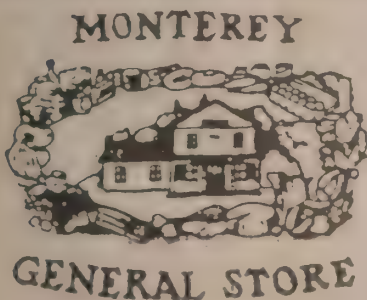
away 112,420 pounds of trash in her lifetime. This astonishingly high level of waste comes from throwing away about 10% of the food we buy, and throwing out twice as much packaging as we did 40 years ago. Fully 30% of municipal solid waste is from packaging. Packaging is an essential element of the convenience we enjoy as consumers, but it is not sustainable. So let's just cut it out.

9. In 2005 I resolve to "think green" when I buy groceries. When the checkout clerk asks if I want "paper or plastic," I'll say, "Neither. I have my own bags." It will take a lot of us to counter the 100 billion plastic bags that we throw away every year, but we've got to start somewhere. Disposal of plastic bags is such a problem

that many countries have simply banned them. When Ireland began charging customers 15 cents per bag, bag use dropped by 90%. San Francisco is talking about imposing a tax of 17 cents per bag. And it won't help to switch from plastic to paper because they're both wasteful. So let's start bringing our own bags to the store.

10. In 2005 I resolve to "buy local" as often as possible, and to persuade my friends and neighbors to do the same. This is not a trivial matter. If we increase our purchase of local products by only 1%, \$6 million dollars will flow into the Berkshires economy each year. So, buy local!

—Laurily K. Epstein



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## A Fisher & the Beast Within

The fisher is the largest member of the weasel family; mature males measure three feet in length, including the tail, and are about a foot or more in height. It is perhaps the only predator other than the great horned owl that can, and does, regularly kill porcupines and live to tell the tale. Fishers have the reputation for being ferocious, aggressive, and willing to attack anything that crosses their path, such as the poodle reported killed in Otis. Does the fisher deserve being demonized for its mean disposition?

After many years outdoors looking for wild creatures to write about, I have only seen one fisher, perhaps because they are mostly nocturnal, hunting solitarily by night in coniferous forests. Years ago their numbers may have dwindled because their pelts were very valuable as was the fur of their smaller cousin, the marten, also known as sable (as in sable stole). It is my opinion that fishers' domains cover a broader territory, including their dens, the vicinity of their kits, and where they have made a kill, than those of other related species such as mink, otter, and martens. If you do ever see one, which is unlikely, you should give it a wide berth.

In the southern Berkshires, the species is often referred to as a fisher cat, probably because when threatened it scratches and bites and also spits and screams like a cat. But, living up to its



contrary image, it is not a cat at all, and it normally does not go fishing and rarely eats fish. Like the wolf, it might be said to fall victim to a human phobia called *theriophobia*, which refers to our instinctive fear of the beast within.

So how did the carcass of a fisher wind up in the Nature Center of the Berkshire Fish Hatchery on River/Hatchery Road? The dried and dehydrated hairless body was uncovered under debris in an old barn in Monterey, and was brought to the Hatchery to be identified. Somehow it had been shut in the barn without access to food and water, and died accordingly.

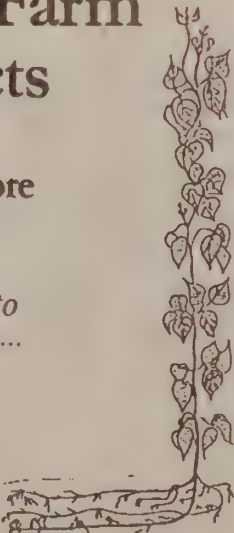
At first it appeared that the mummified body was that of a young coyote, until State Fish and Wildlife representatives came to buy some fish, and said they thought it was a fisher. The jury is still out to confirm this until a taxidermist comes to identify the anatomy as that of a fisher. Why don't you come down to The Nature Center and give us your opinion? Bring your children, or your grandchildren, as it may be the only place in the commonwealth where they can find some trout and a perfectly harmless fisher under the same roof.

— George Emmons

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## Remembering Richard Dunlap

Richard Donovan Dunlap, 80, of 29 Eaton Road, Barberry Close, Monterey, died Monday December 6, 2004, at Fairview Commons Nursing and Rehab Center, Great Barrington. He was born January 30, 1923, in Pomona, California, son of James R. and Elizabeth Easson Dunlap.

Richard began his professional life as an actor at MGM studios when he was five. He enjoyed a decade of acting before his parents decided that the three hours of tutoring he received daily on the set weren't sufficient. Except for playing the role of Ensign Pulver opposite Charlton Heston in *Mr. Roberts* in his mid-twenties, Dunlap's acting career was basically over by the age of 15.

After graduating from Chino High School, Chino, California, Dunlap won a full scholarship to Yale, where his schooling was once again interrupted, this time by World War II. For the next three years, Dunlap served in the U. S. Navy as a lieutenant and commander of a ship in the South Pacific. At the end of the war, he returned to Yale, graduated with a BA, and continued his studies at the Yale School of Drama, where he earned his MA.

Immediately after graduation, he moved to Rome, Italy, and cofounded the Rome Theatre Guild, where he directed plays for the English-speaking population for a year before returning to New York City, just in time for "the Golden Age of Television." Dunlap's television

career, which spanned forty-two years, included an eleven-year period between 1960 and 1972 during which he produced and directed the Academy Awards; he was also the producer and director of the *Kraft Television Theater* for three years, and director and associate producer of *Omnibus* with Alistair Cooke for another three.

During his long career, Dunlap directed and produced more than 1,000 dramatic shows, and more than 100 variety programs, representing more than 2,000 hours of television programming. He made his television directorial debut with "One Man's Family," featuring Eva Marie Saint and Tony Randal. Directing highlights of his tenure at *Kraft Television Theater* included "Romeo and Juliet" with Susan Strasberg; "Picket Fence" with Lee Remick; "The Chess Game" with Melvyn Douglas; "Rip Van Winkle" with E.G. Marshall; and "Long Time Till Dawn" with James Dean. Later, as director and associate producer of *Omnibus*, his credits included, among many others, "Mrs. McThing" with Helen Hayes; "LaPerichole" with Cyril Richard and the Metropolitan Opera Company; "The Trial of Lizzie Borden" with Robert Preston and Richard Kiley; "Moment of Truth" with Peter Ustinov, Jason Robards, and Rosemary Harris; "The Constitution Series" narrated by Joseph Welch with Walter Matthau and Steve McQueen; and "Mary Stewart" starring Eva LaGallienne.

Dunlap also produced and directed Frank Sinatra's specials during the 1960s, and brought his talents to bear with a number of guest artists including Elvis Presley, Lena Horne, and Eleanor Roosevelt. During his stint at the *Bell Telephone Hour*, Dunlap directed Sir John Gielgud, Joan Sutherland, Alfred Drake, and Patrice Munsel. He also produced and directed four Emmy Award shows.

His extensive directing credits also included one year on *Search For Tomorrow*, four years on *As The World Turns*, and eight years on *The Young and the Restless*, for which he won two Emmy Awards for best director of a daytime drama in 1974 and 1977-78.

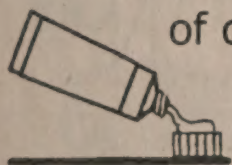
In 1987 Dunlap was offered and accepted the position of Berkshire Theatre Festival Artistic Director a few months before the theater's sixtieth season. He was a strong proponent of "star quality," and during his time at the Berkshire Theatre Festival he brought a number of well-known actors to Stockbridge, including Julie Harris, José Ferrer, Constance Cummings, Teresa Wright, and George Grizzard. He produced a Main Stage musical each season, premiered a new play during all but one season, and scheduled four revivals during his tenure. He also reversed a nine-year tradition of producing only American playwrights by introducing his audiences to works by Enid Bagnold, Harold Pinter, Athol Fugard, Tom Stoppard, and Simon Gray.

Of the twenty plays he produced at the Berkshire Theatre Festival, Dunlap was proudest of his productions of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*, directed by Gordon Edlestein; A. R. Gurney's *The Middle Ages*, which he directed himself; *She Loves Me*, directed by Kent Paul; and Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, directed by Larry Carpenter. One of Dunlap's most popular innovations was the Berkshire Theatre Festival's noon lecture series. During his tenure, he and his team raised two million dollars for renovations.

Funeral services were held on Saturday December 11, at St Peter's Church, with burial at Corashire Cemetery, Monterey. Contributions in Richard's memory may be made by contacting Sarah Bartio at the Yale School of Drama, P.O. Box 208244, New Haven, CT 06520.

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## Remembering Betty L. Carlson

Betty L. Carlson, 87, of Beartown Mountain Road, Monterey, died on Friday evening, December 10, at Fairview Hospital.

Born on June 14, 1917, in Columbus, Ohio, she was the daughter of Edward B. and Bessie Wineland McFeeley. She graduated from Upper Arlington High School and Ohio State University.

Before her marriage she taught school in Cooperstown, New York, and Garden City, Long Island. She had been a resident of Monterey since 1960.

Betty was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox and the Delta Gamma Sorority, and was a past member of the Board Trustees of the Monterey Library, Great Barrington Garden Club, Great Barrington Kennel Club, and the Berkshire Garden Center.

She was married to John I. Carlson on February 20, 1943, in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Carlson predeceased her on September 27, 1980.

She is survived by her good friend William Brockman of Monterey and several nieces and nephews.

## Gabrielle Sherb Weds Jeffrey Banks

Gabrielle Sherb and Jeffrey Banks Evers were married on August 7, 2004, in Lenox, Massachusetts.

The bride is the daughter of Sharon Feltser of Monterey and Michael Sherb of Niantic, Connecticut, and is the step-daughter of Michael Feltser of Monterey.

Mrs. Evers is vice-president of Dynamic Resources, Inc., in New York City, where she specializes in retail project management. She graduated from Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield and the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BA degree in English and Fine Arts.

Mr. Evers is the son of Donald W. Evers Jr. and Carolyn Evers of Vero Beach, Florida. He is a television director under contract to ESPN, Inc., and ABC, with a focus on major league baseball, college basketball, and golf. He graduated from Darien High School and Denison University, Granville, Ohio, with a Bachelor Degree in Communications.

Following a reception at the Lenox Club in Lenox, the couple visited the island of Nevis. They reside in New York City.

PO Box 9, 01245

## Apology for Cancelled Concert

To the Editor:

Deepest apologies from the committee who worked to get the word out that the Vikki True concert at the Monterey Church last December had been cancelled. I'll take responsibility for being the one who thought that all bases had been covered. Too late, I realized that the poster for the front door never made it into place. If you were someone who arrived for the event and were confused by the lack of concert and lack of information, let us know who you are, and how to reach you. We'll make an accommodation for you when the concert is rescheduled.

— Mary Kate Jordan, for Monterey UCC



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## Calendar

**Every Monday (exc. holidays):** Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

**Wednesday, January 12:** Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse. Dr. Philip Bhark will speak on health and your heart. See p. 8.

**Thursday, January 13:** Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

**Sunday, January 16:** Town Ice Skating Party, 2 to 5 p.m., Skating rink, Firehouse Pavilion. See p. 7.

**Monday, January 17:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Town Offices, Library closed.

**Thursday, January 20:** Inauguration Day.

**Saturday, January 22:** Square & contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Paul Rosen-

## Contributors

We are most grateful to the following readers for recent contributions to support the *Monterey News*. Thanks, folks.

Louise Halstead  
Marjorie Percus  
Maurice Stiefel  
Eileen Clawson  
Georgiana Shepherd

berg. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information 528-9385.

**Tuesday, January 25:** Full Moon.



## The Observer

**November 26–December 25**

High temp. (11/26) ..... 60°  
Low temp. (12/20) ..... - 6°  
Avg. high temp. .... 37°  
Avg. low temp. .... 18.6°  
Avg. temp. .... 27.8°  
Total precipitation  
(rain and melted snow) ..... 4.44"  
Snowfall ..... 8.4"  
Precipitation occurred on 12 days.



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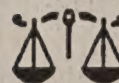
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*Contributions from local artists this month:*

*Maureen Banner, pp. 2, 18, 19; George Emmons, p. 16;*

*Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Michael Musto, p. 1.*

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